SHENCOTTAH TALUK.

369. Provision of irrigation tanks and feeding channels for Shencottah.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer (*Shencottah*) represented that cultivation in the taluk suffered much for want of proper irrigation tanks and feeding channels. He requested that, wherever necessary, tanks and channels might be opened at Government cost, so that the water now overflowing in rivers might be diverted for agricultural purposes.

Reply.—This representation has been already answered. *Vide* subject No. 130.

370. Construction of good roads and bridges in Shencottah.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer requested that good roads might be opened and bridges constructed wherever necessary, and cited as specific instances of desiderata the Samburvadagara bridge, the Ayikudi-Klangad bridge, the Klangad-Marthandapuram bridge, and the Puliyara-Puthur road.

Reply.—It is understood that there will be a large flow of water in the Shencottah rivers only for a very few days in the year. The construction of bridges across them does not therefore appear to be necessary. As regards roads, there were several representations made to me when I visited the taluk recently and these have been referred to the Chief Engineer. The matter will be taken up as part of the general scheme.

371. Abolition of paddy tax on Ayan Japti lands.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer said that the apportionment of paddy tax on Ayan Japti lands in the recent settlement weighed heavily upon the ryots and requested that it might be abolished.

Reply.—The matter has been disposed of in reference to the old order of 1051 and cannot be reopened.

372. Making the land and grain measures in Shencottah uniform with those in other parts of the State.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer suggested the desirability of modifying the present rate of commutation of kottah into parah so

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as to make it uniform with the measures obtaining in other parts of the State.

Reply.—Orders have been finally passed by Government on this subject after hearing Mr. E. Rama Iyer on behalf of the ryots and there is no reason to reconsider the question now.

373. Irregularities of settlement operations and the heavy assessment fixed on lands in Shencottah.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer represented that settlemen operations in the Shencottah taluk were not conducted in conformity with the provisions of the Royal Proclamation of 1886 and that heavy assessment was fixed on both wet and garden lands. He requested that, as sufficient time was not given to the ryots to submit their grievances, individual cases of hardship might be even now taken up and relief given.

Reply.—The settlement of this taluk was finished in 1081, the aggregate increase in revenue being only Rs. 7,000. Nothing can be done, therefore, in the direction prayed for.

374. Fixing of dry assessment on wet lands which are fit only for dry cultivation.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer stated that most of the wet lands of the taluk were fit only for dry cultivation and yet, in the recent settlement, they were assessed as wet lands. He urged that only dry assessment should be levied on such lands and that lands from which only a single crop could be realised should not be treated as double crop lands.

Reply.—Some cases of this kind which came up before me recently have been received and disposed of. Any further cases calling for interference will be considered, when received.

375. Abolition of house-tax.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer submitted that the houses on which *manavari* or house-tax was levied were very few in Shencottah and the amount realised was small. He requested that the tax might therefore be abolished.

Reply.—No interference is called for. Tax is being collected on the lands on which houses are built and it cannot be dispensed with

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